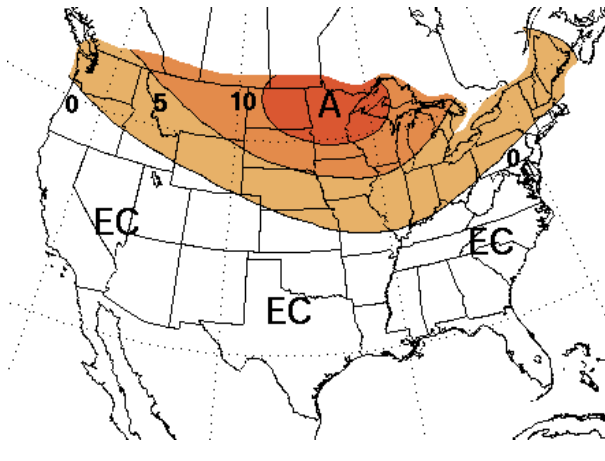
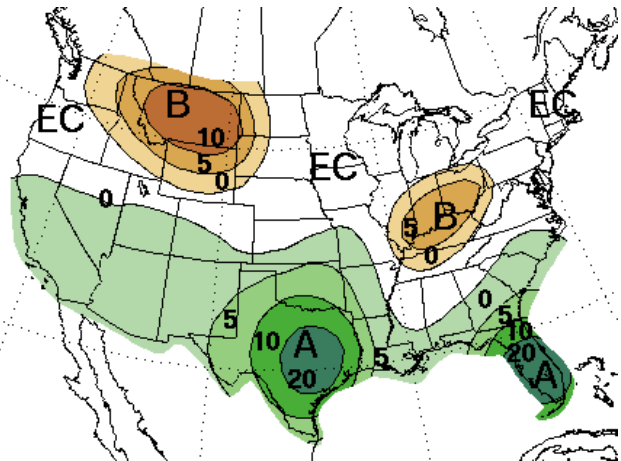


## Outlook for Winter 2002-03



Temperature Outlook for Winter 2002 - 2003



Precipitation Outlook for Winter 2002 - 2003

The National Weather Service (NWS) has released its winter weather outlook for the United States, and it appears that El Niño will play a role in the Nation's winter.

The winter of 2002-03 is expected to return to a warmer than normal pattern. After a couple of colder winters, the long range forecast calls for above normal temperatures across Nebraska and parts of northern Kansas. Precipitation should be more near normal. In a 'normal' winter, for example, snowfall within the Hastings County Warning Forecast Area (CWFA) ranges from about 25 inches in north central Kansas, to just over 30 inches in parts of south central Nebraska.

Specifically, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) predicts slightly above normal chances for a warm period during the months of November, December and January. There are equal chances of normal precipitation during this period. This means there is no bias toward wetter or dryer conditions than normal across south central Nebraska and north central Kansas.

Jack Kelly, Director of the NWS said, "With nearly half of the United States experiencing drought, the winter outlook only offers 'limited relief'. While some improvement in the drought is possible, namely across the Southwest and southern and central Plains states, it may not be enough to alleviate dry conditions entirely, particularly in the Northwest, Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and the Ohio Valley."

The latest winter outlook can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov>. The outlook will be updated on the Web on November 21, 2002.

# WINTER WEATHER TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Each year, the National Weather Service issues numerous watches, warnings and advisories. Knowledge of those products is a critical element in winter weather preparations.

**Winter Storm Outlook:** A statement issued by the NWS, used to provide a 3 to 5 day advance notice of a hazardous winter weather event which has the potential to threaten life or property. The primary goal of this product is to provide information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event.

**Winter Storm Watch:** Adverse winter weather (heavy snow, ice, blizzard, etc.) is expected within the next two days, but the exact timing, location or occurrence of the storm is still uncertain. This is the time to get prepared for the storm.

**Winter Storm Warning:** Hazardous winter weather is likely. If not already occurring, it is expected to occur within 6 to 24 hours. Snow falls typical during a winter storm warning would be at least 6 inches or more in 12 hours or 8 inches or more in 24 hours. Travel will be hazardous, if not impossible. You should be ready for the storm by this time.

**Blizzard Warning:** The most dangerous of all winter weather will occur in your area. A combination of winds 35 mph or greater and significant snow and/or blowing snow with visibilities less than 1/4 mile for three or more hours is expected in the warning area. Blinding snow(“white out”), deep drifts and life threatening wind chill will occur. Travel will be dangerous and should not be attempted. **You should seek refuge immediately!**

**Winter Weather Advisory:** Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not be life-threatening. The greatest hazard is often to motorists. Examples of conditions for which advisories are issued include: snow, sleet, and/or freezing rain.

**Wind Chill Advisory:** wind chills from -20° to -30° Fahrenheit.

**Wind Chill Warning:** wind chills colder than -30° Fahrenheit.

## Check us out on the Web...

Hastings NWS Homepage: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid>

NWS Winter Weather Info:  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/wntrstm.htm>

The Red Cross Winter Safety Information:  
<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/readywinter.html>

Contact me for winter weather brochures or download from:  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winterstorm/winterstorms.pdf>

## ...But Don't Forget...

National Weather Service Radio brings you the latest in weather information, including forecasts, advisories and current conditions. The warning alarm tone will be activated for ***all Winter Storm Warnings and Blizzard Warnings*** issued for the listening areas.

The alarm tone will be preceded with the EAS activation codes for these events. Alarm activation will not occur for any other winter weather watches or advisories, nor will the EAS codes be sent. **So don't shut the weather radio off just because it is winter time.**

**In Kansas**, Weather radio station KWN59 serves Phillips, Rooks, Smith and Osborne counties and transmits on 162.500 MHz. Rooks County is also covered by Weather Radio station WXM35 at 162.450 MHz. Station WXX-94 at 162.550 MHz provides weather information for Jewell and Mitchell counties.

**In Nebraska**, listen to WXL-74 transmitting at 162.400 MHz and covering the area generally between U.S. Highways 281 and 81. Also, WXL-75 transmits at 162.475 MHz and covers the area west of U.S. Highway 281 and east of U.S. Highway 283. Weather radio station KEC39 serves Furnas and Gosper counties. Station KWN62 broadcasts on a frequency of 162.525 MHz for Valley, Greeley, Sherman and Howard counties. WNG549 serves Nance, Merrick and Polk counties on 162.450 MHz.

